

Weekly Status & Information Report: Week of October 11, 2004

1. **Officers at Old Town Business Association Meeting (Wards 1 & 3):** The V-Sector Specialist (Ofc. Smith) and Investigator (D/Cpl. John) attended the Old Town Business Association monthly meeting, reporting on the charges brought against a suspect in a Sept. 23 evening robbery of a fast food shop in Old Town. They offered information about ongoing investigations and steps business owners can take to limit robberies and assist in the successful conclusion of investigations. (Police)
2. **Neighborhood Safety Contact Program (All Wards):** The first COP Newsletter for Neighborhood Safety Contacts was mailed this week. It is a cooperative effort of the COP Team and the PSCAC. (Police)
3. **Steering Wheel Locks Available (All Wards):** Any city resident can purchase a steering wheel locking device at the Police Administration Window for \$10. A vehicle using such a lock is four times less likely to be stolen; it is an excellent and inexpensive deterrent. (Police)
4. **Emergency Management Planning for Elections (All Wards):** Capt. Coursey has been participating with the Montgomery County Emergency Management Group (EMG) regarding election security issues. The statewide conferencing calls are being coordinated by the State's Department of Homeland Security, Board of Elections, and State Police. The city has 6 of the county's 233 polling locations. Coordination is ongoing in planning with the local election board, Montgomery County Police Department, EMG, and other municipalities over these issues. Uniformed presence at polling sites is not planned for election day, but directed patrols will be checking on the sites and surrounding areas throughout the day. (Police)
5. **Raccoons and Rabies (Wards 1 & 3; All Wards):** A third raccoon tested positive for rabies in the last month in residential areas near Maple and Philadelphia Avenues, as reported in a bulletin to Neighborhood Safety Contacts and other residents yesterday. A fourth raccoon was aggressive and was destroyed by officers, but was not tested by Animal Services. The Department is considering actions that might be taken to alleviate the problem. For more details about this incident and about raccoons and rabies, see:
<http://cityoftakomapark.org/pd/posts/messages/149.html>. (Police)
6. **Arrests (Wards 1, 2 & 6):** Among arrests were five for fugitives from other jurisdictions. Also, two juveniles, one from the city, were charged with possession of drugs and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle at 2 a.m. in the Old Town area (Ward 1). A man was arrested in the 900 block of University Blvd. (Ward 6), and charged with possession of a weapon (handgun) and resisting arrest. A traffic stop in the 6900 block of New Hampshire (Wards 2 & 6) resulted in charges against a Hyattsville man for CDS and paraphernalia possession and resisting arrest. (Police)
7. **Crosswalks Installed (Ward 4):** Sidewalk crosswalk installation complete on intersections of Maple Avenue at Sherman, Ritchie, Lincoln. (Public Works)
8. **Maple Avenue Stormdrain Installation (Ward 1):** Beginning Monday, October 18, Maple Avenue from Tulip to Philadelphia Avenue will be closed to traffic from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays for the duration of the project. Work will not occur on rain days. Detours will be set up directing traffic to Cedar between Philadelphia and Tulip Avenue. The project is expected to last four weeks. (Public Works)
9. **Street Work (Ward 2):** Concrete work (curb, gutter and driveway apron) is continuing on Central Avenue. Resurfacing work will be scheduled later in the month. (Public Works)
10. **Speed Bump Installation (Ward 3):** The Hickory Avenue speed bump installation is scheduled for next week. (Public Works)

11. **Metropolitan Branch Trail Community Meeting (Ward 1):** A community meeting to consider options for completing the Takoma Park section of the Metropolitan Branch Trail was held on Thursday, October 14 in Jeque Park. Several community members and Council Member Austin-Lane participated in the meeting. Staff will be presenting community feedback received and recommendations for completing the trail at the Council meeting on October 25. Any questions about the Metropolitan Branch Trail should be directed to Senior Planner Rob Inerfeld at 301-891-7219 or roberti@takomagov.org. (Housing and Community Development)

12. **Gateway and Wayfinding Advisory Committee Meeting (Citywide):** The first meeting of the advisory committee for the Gateway and Wayfinding Signage System was held on Tuesday, October 12. At the meeting, staff from Gallagher and Associates presented four sign schemes to the committee and received feedback. The best opportunity for residents to provide input into the design of the signage system will be at the Community Forum on October 26 at 7 p.m. at Montgomery College. The meeting will be held in the Student Lounge in the Commons Building located at Takoma and New York Avenues. (Housing and Community Development)

13. **Community Legacy Application (City-Wide):** A site visit was conducted today by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development as a part of its assessment of the City's Community Legacy application. The City has requested Community Legacy funds to offset predevelopment expenses incurred by residents when evaluating the feasibility of purchasing their rental facility through the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase law. Awards are to be announced at the annual Maryland Housing Conference in Baltimore on November 16th. (Housing and Community Development)

14. **Thomas Siegler Carriage House Property (Ward 1):** The Garden's Division of Public Works has been working at the Thomas Siegler Carriage House property for more than a week clearing excessive undergrowth, removing dead trees, mulching gardens and more. These actions were taken in response to the neighborhood's desire to minimize cover and concealment opportunities for potential criminals. Mike Welsh and his team have made the property much more open and added to its beauty in the process. Solutions for lighting problems are under consideration. (Public Works)

15. **Pee Wee Basketball (All Wards):** Our Pee Wee Basketball Program continues this Sunday, October 17, at Piney Branch Elementary School, from 1 - 3 p.m. Twenty 1st and 2nd grade kids have been grouped into four teams. Team scrimmages start this weekend. All the kids will be looking spiffy in their brand new pee wee t-shirts as they learn to play in a 3-on-3 format. Our staff works well with the kids, really getting involved, making sure the kids learn and have a positive experience, too. (Recreation)

16. **Tae Bo to be Offered (All Wards):** Tae Bo has been brought to Takoma Park for the first time. The program takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. A second session will be offered beginning in November. (Recreation)

17. **Circle of Trust (All Wards):** On Friday October 8, the girls peer group Circle of Trust held it's first meeting. There were 10 girls in attendance in grades 6-8. They are able to discuss a variety of issues and concerns in a safe and confidential setting. (Recreation)

18. **Belly Dancing Class (All Wards):** The Recreation Department will be offering a Belly Dancing Class (also know as Middle Eastern Dance). The program will run November 3 through December 8 from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Piney Branch Elementary School. In addition to learning the dance routine this class will also offer the benefit a great aerobic workout. (Recreation)

19. **Used Book Sale (All Wards):** The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library used book sale will be held on the Library lawn this Saturday October 16 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (bring hot chocolate!) These are popular and well attended sales, as they represent the best of donations given to the Library over the past six months. All hard backs sell for one dollar, and

paperbacks are either 25 or 50 cents. The book sales and the Morrissey golf tournaments are the biggest fund-raisers for the Library. We are no longer accepting books for the sale, but we can still use volunteers to help out at the event. (Library)

20. **Takoma Park Film Festival (All Wards):** The Takoma Park Film Festival will be held November 7 - 14 at the Takoma Theater at 6833 4th. Street N.W. The Takoma Theatre Arts Project has joined The Takoma Park Library and Columbia Union College in sponsoring this year's event. A reception to honor film makers and supporters will be held at 6:00 PM between the afternoon and evening screenings on November 14. All are invited! Additional information is available at the Library or on the Library page of the City's web site. (Library)

21. **Homework Helper Program (All Wards):** Two interns from Columbia Union College are working in our after school homework helper program, providing assistance in the Children's Room after school from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. Pierre Langford and Lucero Pena are joined by longstanding volunteer Karen Petersen, and help is generally available Monday through Friday. (Library)

22. **Circle Time (All Wards):** Performer-educator Greta Ehrig is conducting our very popular Circle time on some Tuesdays (next appearance - November 16). Greta writes and performs her own poetry and music, and has received grants from the Maryland State Arts Council, the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County and many other organizations. She is very generously conducting our Circle Time on a volunteer basis on those days when our children's librarian is not "in residence." (Library)

23. **Halloween Storytelling (All Wards):** On October 28th., storyteller Candace Wolf will offer a program of Halloween storytelling for elementary age children at the Library, with support from the Friends of the Library. (Library)

24. **Dungeons & Dragons (All Wards):** On Monday evening, November 1st., Library Assistant and Dungeons & Dragons guru Dave Burbank will present an introduction to this form of interactive storytelling for parents, educators and other interested folks. (Library)

25. **Native American Program (All Wards):** On November 8th., Tomas Shash, spokesperson and elder of the Atzlan Native American Cultural Arts Center in Gardner Colorado will return to the Library with various family members to entertain audiences with traditional songs and stories. This program is supported by the Friends of the Library. (Library)